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SRI K. VENKATRAMANA GOWDA :—" The Minister has said that there is nothing like a ' Malnad Development Scheme '. May I know whether the Minister is aware of the special problems of Malnad and whether they are going to receive the attention of the Government? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have nowhere stated that there is nothing like a ' Malnad Development Scheme '. Therefore, the other part of the question does not arise."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" This is a most important question and I would request you, Sir, to permit a half-hour debate on this."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I allowed one half-hour debate yesterday and it is yet to take place."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" It may be permitted in this sitting. We can have it day-after-tomorrow."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I cannot fix the date now."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Even if you permit a half-hour debate now, I shall not be able to furnish any more information on this subject in the next two or three or even seven days."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I shall consider the request of the hon. Member. Questions Nos. 91 to 93 may be answered together."

Amendments to the Constitution.

* 91 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government were invited by the General Secretary, All-India Congress Committee or by the Central Government to give their opinion on amendments to the Constitution; and

(*b*) if so, whether any reply was given?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes. Communications on the subject were received by the Chief Minister from the General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee and from the Prime Minister of India.

" (*b*) It will not be in the public interest to disclose the information as it is of a confidential nature."

* 92 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the State Government have received the proposals of the Union Government for amending the Constitution; and

(*b*) if so, the Articles to be amended?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) A letter was received by the Chief Minister from the Prime Minister.

" (*b*) It will not be in the public interest to disclose the information as it is of a confidential nature."

* 93 *Q*.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the State Government were consulted by the Central Government regarding the proposed amendment to Article 31 of the Constitution ; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place their recommendations on the Table of the House?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) A letter was received by the Chief Minister from the Prime Minister.

" (*b*) Government are not in a position to disclose the information, as it is of a confidential nature."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know whether the Government's opinion was communicated both to the Central Government and to the General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee? " 11-20 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" As far as the General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee is concerned, the Chief Minister wrote in his personal capacity. As far as the Prime Minister's communication is concerned, the Government have sent their reply."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" அரசியல் சட்டத்தைத் திருத்த வேண்டிய முக்கியமான பிரச்னையைப்பற்றி நமது அரசாங்கம் மத்திய அரசாங்கத்திற்கு யோசனை கூறியிருப்பதன் காரணமாக இந்தச் சட்ட சபைக்கும் ஒரு மதிப்புக் கொடுத்து சட்டசபை அங்கத்தினர்களின் யோசனையையும் அது விஷயத்தில் கேட்டு அதை மத்திய அரசாங்கத்திற்கு அனுப்ப சர்க்கார் முன் வருமா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is quite a different matter altogether."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is there any basis for the charge made on the floor of the Lok Sabha by the Hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry of the Government of India that the Madras Government have failed to reply to certain matters asked for from them by the Central Government relating to changes in the Constitution? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is not with reference to the changes proposed in the Constitution which were referred to in questions 91, 92 and 93. It is with reference to the changes in the Constitution regarding the list of essential articles. We were asked to send a reply within three days. We said that that was an important matter and that we could not be hustled in a matter like that to send the information within the said time-limit."